



CHILDREN'S BOOK
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LOS ANGELES

INSTANCES

OF

FILIAL INTREPIDITY

AND

TENDERNESS.



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MY Son—Forget not my law ; but let thine heart keep my commandments For length of days and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee—so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes ; fear the Lord, and depart from it.

— *Proverbs ix. 1—7.*

FILIAL INTREPIDITY.

A REAL INCIDENT.

[Copied from the History of Holland.]

IN the year 1574, the Spaniards, at that time enemies of the Dutch, made an incursion into North Holland; and, approaching a village called Westzaan, the terrified inhabitants took to flight; those at least who were not prevented by age and infirmity. A young lad, named Lambert Meliss, found himself at home during these moments of alarm, with no other companion than an infirm mother, whom he most tenderly loved. Occupied alone with considerations for her safety, he never once thought of securing what was valuable in the house; his greatest treasure was a disconsolate mother; and his only study was directed to the means of her preservation. This distressful circum-

stance occurred in the middle of winter, when all the waters were locked up by ice. There was no one of these sledges at hand, which the Hollanders use for travelling in this inclement season ; the youth, therefore, hastily placed his afflicted parent on a small settle, and thus dragged her over the ice, with great speed.

Notwithstanding his swiftness, the Spaniards got some intimation that he had escaped with something valuable, discovered the track, and followed, with the hope of seizing a great prize.

Meliss, seeing the enemy in close pursuit, and perceiving that it was impossible to out-run them, came to a speedy resolution of hiding his mother and himself. In vain, however, was this precaution. The soldiers, but too intent on their prey, discovered them almost immediately ; but, on proceeding to an examination, they found nothing except a helpless parent and a dutiful son. However balked in their expectations, they were nevertheless most sensibly struck at this extraordi-

nary instance of filial affection. Too poor themselves to bestow any reward on the youth, they gave him external tokens of their admiration ; carefully avoided giving these fugitives the smallest molestation ; and went back, rather astonished than disappointed.

Lambert, having thus escaped the dangers that threatened him, again grasped the cord with which he drew the vehicle along, and pursued his course, till he reached a considerable town called Horn. He was admitted at the western gate of that place ; and there his heroism, his dangers, and filial piety, became in a short time, the universal theme of conversation.

The Mayor and Alderman of Horn considered Lambert's conduct so exceedingly meritorious, that, in commemoration of so noble a deed, and to excite all other children to imitate his example, under the same or similar circumstances, they caused a stone to be placed on the top of the western gate, representing a young man dragging an aged woman over the ice,

precisely after the manner in which that event occurred; and under the figures a suitable inscription was cut, which may even be seen at the present day.

So far the civil power rewarded the virtue of this amiable child. But Providence had more in reserve for him. Lambert remained at Horn, where a succession of prosperous incidents enabled him to enjoy the comforts of life, during the whole course of his existence. He married most advantageously, in consequence of his merits and his virtues; and left a numerous posterity, some of whom at this moment fill the most reputable offices under the government of that town.

Children, do not fail to call LAMBERT MELISS to your recollection, should you ever for an instant be inclined to harbour ingratitude towards your parents! And remember that it is said in the sacred Scriptures, "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

THE PIOUS SONS.

IN one of those terrible eruptions of Mount *Ætna*, which have often happened. the danger to the inhabitants of the adjacent country, was uncommonly great.

To avoid immediate destruction from the flames, and the melted lava which ran down the sides of the mountain, the people were obliged to retire to a considerable distance.

Amidst the hurry and confusion of such a scene, (every one flying and carrying away whatever he deemed most precious,) two brothers, the one named *Anapias*, the other *Amphinomus*, in the height of their solicitude for the preservation of their wealth and goods, suddenly recollected that their father and mother, both very old, were unable to save themselves by flight.

Filial tenderness triumphed over every other consideration. "Where," cried the generous youths, "shall we find a more precious treasure, than they are, who gave us being, and who have cherished and protected us, through life?" Having said this, the one took up his father on his shoulders, and the other his mother, and happily made their way through the surrounding smoke and flames.

All, who were witnesses of this dutiful and affectionate conduct, were struck with the highest admiration: and they, and their posterity, ever after, called the path which these good young men took in their retreat, "The Field of the Pious."

Solomon says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."





